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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/894,689	06/27/2001	Shigeyoshi Hirashima	450100-03261	6422

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EXAMINER
PENDERGRASS, KYLE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/894,689	HIRASHIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kyle M Pendergrass	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/28/01.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vilhuber (US 6,470,453).

Regarding claim 1, Vilhuber teaches a connection apparatus for automatically connecting a connection source **(fig 1, client 102)** to a predetermined connection destination **(fig 1, network access server 104)**;

wherein said connection source comprises:

information about said predetermined connection destination **(column 6:lines 18-26, client 102 dials into the network access server 104, which inherently requires that the client 102 comprise information about the server 104 in order to dial in for a connection)**;

and connecting means **(fig 2, browser 208)** for making a connection request to said predetermined connection destination based on said information about said predetermined connection destination **(column 9:lines 53-59 client sends request for connection to server 104 using browser 208)** and, given a permission, for automatically connecting to said connection destination **(column 7:line 60-column 8:line 3, if connection permission is granted, the connection is automatically established)**;

and wherein said predetermined connection destination comprises:

receiving means for receiving said connection request from said connection source **(column 9:lines 53-59, client sends request for connection to server 104 using browser 208, which inherently requires a receiving means in server 104 to receive that request)**;

judging means **(fig 1, daemon 112)** which, upon interpreting said connection request, judges whether said connection source is a predetermined connection source or not **(column 7:lines 44-47, daemon 112 performs a client authentication phase upon receiving the connection request and judges whether the client 102 is allowed to connect)**;

and permission granting means **(fig 1, daemon 112)** which, if said judging means judges said connection source to be a predetermined connection source, grants connection permission to said connection source **(column 7:lines 60-66, if the daemon 112 determines that the client 102 is allowed to connect, it grants permission to the client 102 for a first connection 204)**.

Regarding claim 2, Vilhuber teaches a connection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connection source **(fig 1, client 102)** is connected to said connection destination without intervention of an Internet service provider being contracted **(fig 5 and column 15:lines 1-5, client can be connected through a local network or through a Internet Service Provider (ISP))**.

Regarding claim 3, Vilhuber teaches a connection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connection request constitutes a request for connection to an Internet service provider as well as a request for connection to said receiving means **(fig 5 and column 15:lines 1-5, client can be connected through a local network or through a Internet Service Provider (ISP), which inherently requires a request from the client 102 to connect to the ISP)**.

Claims 6-8 recite identical features as claims 1-3 except claims 6-8 are method claims. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claims 1-3 are equally applicable to claims 6-8.

Regarding claims 11-13, Vilhuber teaches a computer-readable program storage medium **(column 13:lines 23-27)** used for a connecting method for automatically connecting a connection source to a predetermined connection destination, which stores a program with connecting functions, said program comprising the steps representative of claims 6-8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 9, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vilhuber (US 6,470,453) & Tateyama (US 5,844,813).

Regarding claim 4, Vilhuber teaches a connection apparatus according to claim 1, but does not teach wherein said connection source is a printer.

However, Tateyama teaches a combination personal computer and printer **(column 3:lines 13-15)**.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have used the printer/computer combination as taught by Tateyama in the connection system taught by Vilhuber because it provides printer capabilities to the network client via the client)

Claim 9 recites identical features as claim 4 except claim 9 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 4 is equally applicable to claim 9.

Regarding claim 14, Vilhuber teaches a computer-readable program storage medium **(column 13:lines 23-27)** used for a connecting method for automatically connecting a connection source

to a predetermined connection destination, which stores a program with connecting functions,

said program comprising the steps representative of claim 9.

Claims 5, 10 & 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vilhuber (US 6,470,453) & Tateyama (US 5,844,813) as applied to claims 4, 9, and 14 above, and further in view of Petterutti et al. (US 5,997,193).

Regarding claim 5, Vilhuber & Tateyama teach a connection apparatus according to claim 4, but do not teach wherein said printer is connected to said predetermined connection destination using a trigger signal issued upon initial power-up.

However, Petterutti et al., teach wherein upon starting up, the printer determines if communication is ready, which inherently requires establishing a connection using a signal during start-up **(fig 6 & column 7:lines 15-31)**.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have used the startup connection taught by Petterutti et al., in the system taught by Vilhuber & Tateyama, because it allows the printer to connect to the system immediately upon starting up, so the user does not have to activate connection his- or herself.

Claim 10 recites identical features as claim 5 except claim 10 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 5 is equally applicable to claim 10.

Regarding claim 15, Vilhuber teaches a computer-readable program storage medium **(column 13:lines 23-27)** used for a connecting method for automatically connecting a connection source to a predetermined connection destination, which stores a program with connecting functions, said program comprising the steps representative of claim 10.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle Pendergrass whose telephone number is (703) 306-3445. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiners supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (703) 308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned in (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application of proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER